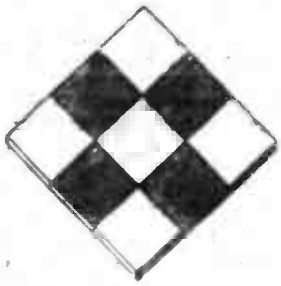
H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT'S MODEL HOUSES.

THO. PEAKE, Class 27.



SQUARE PAVING-TILES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE BUILDER."

Sir,—In asking for the publication of the following letters and extracts, relative to the subject of two advertisements in your number of the 20th instant, I congratulate you, as well as the authors of the *Labourer's Friend*, and of the very large number of papers issued at the model structure in the Crystal Palace, on the fairness and truth of your several statements having been proved unassailable. You, Sir, know too well what serious *effects* have originated in apparently the slightest causes, to blame me for having tried to substantiate the accuracy of the above publications, to maintain my position in my business against what I must still believe to have been a surreptitious attack upon it, and to acquaint the public with the *fact* that the tiles in the left-hand ground-floor rooms (the only tiled floors generally open to its inspection) were manufactured by myself. Sir, it is surely not so light a matter, under a plea even of ignorance, to issue, in 9,038 copies a *gratuitous* statement which has been called "exclusive," but which I—from what has taken place during the last six years between myself (touching my rights) and the other parties, in either their individual or official capacity—must continue to view as culpable in the extreme. Sir, *if* five persons see each of the 9,038 papers (dispensing with the possibility of its being republished by other periodicals, and especially in the United States), it may have the effect of misinforming 45,190 persons how to address the identical firm whose manufactures (and whose *alone*, with but few exceptions) they had inspected; yet, as far as appears, no satisfactory counter-statement, however unpressive it may ever prove, is to be circulated through the same channel! Sir, I lost excellent, though not literary or special pleading, parents at an early age, but not before they had taught me that what is not fair must be unfair—that what is not true must be false—and that I ought to call a brick a "brick;" and though, through frailty, I have, alas! fallen so short of ever acting up to the standard they raised, still I hope to be enabled to carry more of their advice into effect in my own person, as well as to leave behind those committed to my charge, more blessed and successful herein, than either generation of their ancestors. Sir, it is laid to my charge that I had done wrong in having noticed a letter, then public, without having first communicated privately with its author. Not only conventional etiquette, but the precious Gospel also is quoted to show that, in the present case any mode of interference and investigation is unjustifiable; but I appeal to you whether I had not the same right to answer as the writer had to publish, and, having weighed many circumstances, to state frankly, in the reply, my judgment on the matter. Surely a Briton has the right, not only to do this, but to train his children also to exercise and cherish it. It is, however, both wiser and better that conventional etiquette, and especially HOLY WRIT, should in the heart PREVENT questionable conduct, or even carelessness, in cases of this nature, than be aimed to stifle investigation or elude merited consequences; and great as human frailty confessedly is, the attempt was never more desirable than now, when, amid much which is deplorable, means are steadily applied to ameliorate the trials of our common species, and to include the whole in a bond of amity.

To return to the replies to my complaint, and to conclude, I must prefer another appeal to you, Sir, as to whether the SPECIAL interest Mr. Ridgway had in the "Materials and Fittings," both in the Four Houses, and also in the Structure within the Crystal Palace, is not presumptive proof that he must have read some of the descriptive accounts published last year—your own, for instance? He had two paragraphs out of about fourteen in your paper replaced to his productions,—one being before that about the tiles, and the other after,—besides in the papers of the Society, the statement following, viz.—"The model group of four tile-kilns is exhibited by Mr. Ridgway, as showing a compact and economical arrangement of an important requisite in the manufacture of hollow bricks, tiles, &c."—upon which modest kilns, in his own writing, was fixed a notice that the goods exhibited by Messrs. Haywood opposite had been fired in his kilns. Notwithstanding this latter statement, I challenge, in respect of *both*, regarding specimens as ensues, though no doubt unintentional, any Manufacturer whose material is considered to be similar to my "terro-metallic" (a trade term of my own) as to superiority of quality in every point of view,—to assisting Architects and others in the application of the article to new and difficult objects,—to long and extensive acquaintance, practically, with the various ramifications of the trade, and especially as to TESTIMONIALS.

Sir,—It is a duty to myself and mine,—if not to the Public in some respects also,—to maintain, if I can by fair means, my honest position as a Manufacturer. I have endeavoured to do it in this instance, though at some expense and trouble, and with various and great infirmities;—and emphatically inquiring, WHY OR WHEREFORE DRAG FORWARD THE TILES? in the instance complained of, any more than the stoves of Mr. Leake, or the goods of some other of the twenty persons concerned,

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

March, 4 Wharf, City-road-basin. THOS. PEAKE, Proprietor of Peake's Terro-Metallic.

(No. I.—Copy.)

J. Ridgway, esq. to Mr. Peake.

"Cauldon-place, Staffordshire Potteries, March 6th, 1852.

"DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to have penned any thing which has given you pain, or caused you trouble. It is perfectly true that I wrote the letter in the *Manchester Guardian* that bears the signature of my Firm. But so far from intending to do you any injustice by its contents, I can assure you I never had you in my thoughts, therefore neither withheld your name from good nor used it for purposes of evil. The fact is, until I saw *The Builder* of this date, I knew not that any part of the Tiles in Prince Albert's Cottages were manufactured by you; or, depend upon it, I should have associated your name with that of Messrs. Haywood, who, it was told me, had supplied the whole. Had you written and explained this to me, I would have corrected the mistake, as I shall now do, without laying you under the necessity of, adverting to private transactions, at all times a very doubtful course, but in your case a very groundless one; inasmuch as I have relied on your promise to introduce my kilns, and have waited your convenience as to the time; so there has been no disappointment in the business, nor, I can promise you, will there be. As to the negotiation for wharfage which you suppose has had an unfriendly influence on my feelings, you never judged more erroneously; so far from this being the case, I consider you are the party who has suffered and will suffer from not taking the advice which I gave you, and that my friends are greatly indebted to you for throwing so many obstacles in their way, and enabling them to obtain better accommodation on better terms.

"Should you wish to manufacture the glazed, veneered, hollow bricks, quarries, &c. (my nephew Mr. Bale's patents) he shall be prepared to license you on liberal terms, but it is only proper to caution you that you will expose yourself seriously if you go to work without being properly licensed.

"I remain respectfully yours, per pro Jno. Ridgway, "W. HAWLEY."

(No. II.—Copy.)

Mr. Peake to Jno. Ridgway, esq. and Co.

"Jno. Ridgway, esq. and Co. Cauldon-place. "London, 10th March, 1852.

"DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 6th instant was delivered here yesterday.

I have to state, with respect to what you published in the *Manchester Guardian* of the 24th January last, that it is calculated to do me injustice, both as extensively as that influential journal circulates at home and abroad, and also to continue so to operate as long as that postscript shall be in existence.

"With these feelings, it will be my duty to have recourse to the best antidote in my power, and especially to publish from either your present or future letter any extract or otherwise as the case may appear to require.

"This communication to be *without prejudice*.

"I remain respectfully yours, "THOS. PEAKE."

(No. III.—Copy.)

Mr. Ridgway to Mr. Peake.

"March 11th, 1852.

"SIR,—The letter I have received from you to-day is anything but satisfactory, and, therefore, requires me to be very plain with you. It was your duty, when you saw my note in the *Manchester Guardian* (the cause of this offence), to have written to me for an explanation before you published on the subject. I should have done this to you, and, I request, you ought to have done it to me. Notwithstanding your course has been to strike and then to hear, I wrote you a friendly letter, frankly accounting for the error, as having arisen for want of better information, and as having occurred without the slightest design of hurting either your interest or feelings.

"You appear to have overlooked a passage in my letter which avows all this, and adds, 'Had you explained this to me I would have corrected the mistake, as I *shall now do*,' thereby meaning that this correction would be given in *The Builder* (the channel of the error), to which it was sent for the purpose, on the date of my letter to you.

"If, as you say, I have done you injustice, I can only repent, it has been most unintentional; and I have made the *amende honorable* for it, not only without any appeal being made to me, but against (to speak in the mildest way of it) 'evil for evil;' and I have not done this by reservations, or, as you term it, 'without prejudice' (means that you would do well to omit in such correspondence), but in full measure, and most respectfully. Before, therefore, you think of publishing any part of my letter, I would recommend you to see *The Builder*, became a right of what I have written may render anything of the sort unnecessary. If you are of a different opinion, I shall neither object to your publishing my letter to you, or that sent to *The Builder*, but allow me to caution you, that in either case I shall require you to publish the whole, and not such extracts as you, in your fancy, may choose to select, and which I may happen to think should not in fairness appear without their proper connection. And that there be no misunderstanding in the case, I beg explicitly to state, that while I give you liberty to publish either letter in full, I will not allow you to publish any extracts from one or both, without being first submitted to me, and receiving my approval. The application you have thought well to make to Mr. Roberts, the way you have put the thing to him, and the publication of the whole without any previous reference to me, have not commended your kindly feeling to me, nor exalted your discretion in my estimation; and I must say I shall feel bound to wait for some better proofs of both before I can regard you with the same respect, or trust you with the same confidence, that I have heretofore done. I have only to add, in conclusion, that I regret the occasion for writing you at so much length and pleinness. It is not my wish to continue our correspondence; I have said and done all in my power; and I hope nothing will transpire to require my further interference.

"And am respectfully yours, "JOHN RIDGWAY."

Extracts from THE BUILDER, *May 17, 1851.*

"The glazed bricks were made by the Alsale machine, at Mr. Ridgway's, the Potteries, Staffordshire. These being the first specimens, the actual cost at which they are likely to be hereafter supplied has not yet been ascertained.

"The brick-work was executed by Mr. S. Grimsdell, Sun-street, Bishopsgate-street.

"The metallic lava covering the roof, the floor lava, and the gravel lava to the front, were laid by Messrs. Ovei and Armani, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street.

"The French plaster and the Portland cement floors have been executed by Messrs. J. B. White and Sons, Millbank-street, Westminster.

"The tile floors in the left-hand ground floor rooms are from Mr. Peake, Tunstall, Staffordshire, or Macclesfield-street South, City-road Basin. Those in the right-hand rooms are from Messrs. H. and R. Haywood, Burslem, Staffordshire, and South Wharf, Paddington.

"The staining fluid used for the wood work is from Ibbotson's Varnish and Colour Works, Hammersmith.

"All the traps used in the building are those of Lowe and Co. Salford; agents, Messrs. Kennard and Co. Upper Thames-street.

"The metal sunken-lights, the ventilators, and all other articles of ironmongery, excepting the stoves, are manufactured by Hart and Sons, Wych-street, Strand.

"The bell-pull apparatus to the left-hand water-closets, is supplied by J. W. Dunn, Commercial-street, Gray's Inn-road. That to the right-hand, by G. Jennings, Great Charlotte-street, Blackfriars-road.

"The stoves in the left-hand ground-floor rooms are from Mr. Leake, Conduit-street; in the right-hand room is the 'Cottager's Stove,' manufactured by D. and E. Bailey, High Holborn. The stoves in the left-hand rooms, first-floor, are from Pierce, of Jermyn-street; to the right-hand, the Baron Cottage Range, by Nicholson, of Newark, is fixed in the living-room, and suitable stoves in the bed-rooms, with fire-brick back and cast-iron chimney-piece complete, by the same maker.

"The earthenware sinks are from Mr. Ridgway, the Potteries, Staffordshire, who has also supplied specimens of earthenware pipes, washhand basins, and the water-closet pans: two of the sinks are of slate."

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